

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 060445

R 160841Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1704

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI PINT NP

SUBJ: STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: KATHMANDU 2098

1. UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT KATHMANDU VALLEY REMAIN CLOSED AS STUDENT STRIKE ENTERS THIRD WEEK. DESPITE EFFORTS BY UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO NEGOTIATE STUDENT DEMANDS, LEADING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE REFUSED TO MEET WITH AUTHORITIES AND HAVE VIRTUALLY CLOSED DOWN ALL COLLEGES. SOME SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN VALLEY ARE ALSO OUT ON STRIKE, ALLEGEDLY AS SYMPATHY MOVE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN COUNTRY (TANSEN, BHAIRAWA, OKHLADHUNGA AND BIRATNAGAR) ARE ALSO ON STRIKE.

2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ONE OR TWO MONTH "SUMMER VACATION" FOR ALL UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO BEGIN MAY 17. ONE MONTH VACATION WOULD NORMALLY COME IN EARLY JUNE, BUT AUTHORITIES NOW FEEL SITUATION IS BEYOND CONTROL AND THAT IT IS BETTER TO CLOSE DOWN THAN RUN RISK OF FURTHER VIOLENCE. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN PAST WEEK IN

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WHICH POLICE HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT, HMG CONTINUES POLICY OF

RESTRAINT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION.

3. STUDENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GENERATE WIDESPREAD
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STRIKE, DESPITE EARLIER EFFORTS (REFTEL)
TO TIE MOVEMENT TO PRICE HIKES AND OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES
OF PUBLIC CONCERN. ATTITUDE AMONG THOSE PERSONS WE HAVE
TALKED WITH SEEMS TO BE THAT STUDENTS HAVE GONE TOO FAR
AND IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK. QUANTON

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Message Attributes

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